

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 and 25 are pending in the present application and were rejected on various grounds in the Office Action mailed November 7, 2006. Claims 1, 4, 10, 15 and 25 are amended. These claims have been amended to specify that the clamping circuit has a clamping threshold (as previously claimed). These claims have also been amended to recite that the clamping circuit allows an output to track an input below a clamping maximum.

The amendments are fully-supported by the claims originally filed and the specification, for example in paragraphs [0039 – 0042]. For example, in paragraph [0039], the specification states that the "maximum value of V_{CCP} can be controlled by manipulating the 'trip point' at which the clamp circuit 210 triggers the voltage regulator 220 to activate the change pump for V_{CCP} ." Also, in paragraph [0040], the specification states that " V_{CCP} tracks V_{CCR} ." In that same paragraph, the application states that the disclosed circuitry "clamps the voltage V_{CCP} ." Thus, no new matter is added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 – 16 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Furumochi (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,277) in view of Javanifard (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,486). On page 4 of the Board decision dated July 26, 2006, the Board found that Applicants' argument "rely on language that does not appear in Claim 1." Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 4, 10, 15 and 25 to recite that that clamping circuit has a clamping threshold and is configured to allow an output to track an input below a clamping maximum.

Neither the Furumochi reference nor the Javanifard reference teach or suggest this feature. The Examiner has relied on Furumochi for the teaching of the claimed clamping circuit. Applicants, however, respectfully disagree. Furumochi does not disclose or suggest a clamping circuit as claimed in amended independent Claims 1, 4, 10, 15 and 25. Furumochi discloses a "constant voltage generator" that can be "adjusted." See Abstract; Col. 11, l. 22- Col. 12, l. 41. Furumochi does not disclose or suggest an output that tracks an input. Moreover, Furumochi does not disclose or suggest an output that can track an input below a clamping maximum. Instead, Furumochi sets a fixed, constant output.

The Examiner also stated that Furumochi's clamp circuit "would allow its output to vary below the clamping maximum or the total threshold of the transistors." Applicants respectfully disagree. Furumochi repeatedly and explicitly states that its output, V_{DD} , is "a constant voltage." See, e.g., Col. 6, ll. 46-47; Col. 6, ll. 61-62; Col. 7, ll. 14-20. Neither Furumochi nor Javanifard teach or suggest that an output can vary with or track an input.

With respect to Claims 15 and 16, the Examiner has failed to show that the cited combination teaches or suggests the "at least one bypass device is reversibly activated to reversibly bypass the at least one of the plurality of voltage regulation devices from the clamp circuit" limitation. The absence of a teaching or suggestion of this element provides an independent ground for patentability.

Accordingly, the combination of references fails to teach or suggest all the elements of the Claims. Accordingly, Applicants request that the present rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

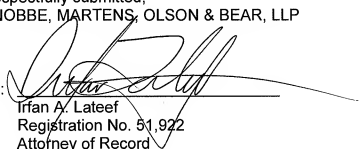
In view of the present amendments and arguments, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If some issue remains that the Examiner believes can be addressed by Examiner's Amendment, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for authorization.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____


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